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ACCOUNT
OF THE
A
CHIEF TRUTHS
~~OF THE~~
CATECHETICAL
INSTRUCTION.

CATHEMERICAL



INSTRUCTION

A
Catechetical Instruction:
Being an
A C C O U N T
O F T H E
C H I E F T R U T H S
O F T H E
Christian Religion,
Explained to the
Meanest CAPACITY;
By W A Y of
QUESTION and ANSWER.

L O N D O N :
Printed by CHARLES ACKERS, in Great-
Swan-Alley, St. John's-Street. 1728.

Catechetical Instruction:

Being an

ACCOUNT



CHIEF PRINCIPLES

OF THE

Christian Religion

Explained to the

Meaneſt CAPACITY;

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AN

ACCOUNT OF THE CHIEF TRUTHS

OF THE
Christian Religion.

Quest.



HAT are the chief Truths of the Christian Religion?

Ans. (a) First, To acknowledge one only GOD.

(a) *Rom. i. 20, 21. Heb. 11. 6.*

Q. What

Q. What is GOD? and what are his Perfections?

A. GOD is a (b) Spirit, (c) infinite, (d) eternal, (e) without Beginning and without End, (f) Creator of all Things, (g) every where present, (h) knowing all Things, (i) infinite in Power, (k) in Wisdom, and (l) in Goodness; and (m) in the Unity of this Godhead there be three Persons of one Substance, Power and Eternity, Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

(b) *John* 4. 24. (k) *Psal.* 147. 5. (d) *1 Tim.* 1. 17. (e) *Rev.* 22. 13. (f) *Gen.* 1. 1. (g) *Psal.* 139. 7, 8, 9, 10. (h) *1 Sam.* 2. 3. (i) *Matt.* 19. 26. (k) *Psal.* 147. 5. (l) *Psal.* 145. 9. (m) *Matt.* 28. 19.

Q. Doth not this destroy the Unity of the Godhead?

A. No; Because (n) the Son is of the Substance of the Father, (o) begotten from all Eternity, very GOD of very GOD; and (p) the Holy Ghost is also of the same Substance, and together with the Father, and (q) the Son is one GOD blessed for evermore.

(n) *John* 1. 18. *Heb.* 1. 1, 2, 3. (o) *John* 1.

1. 1, 2, 3, 18. (p) *John* 13. 26. *John* 14. 26.
 (q) 1 *Tim.* 1. 17.

Q. What is the next chief Truth of the Christian Faith?

A. To believe that (r) **JESUS CHRIST** is the only begotten Son of **GOD**, (s) by whom he also made the Worlds, who (t) having dwelt in the Bosom of the Father from all Eternity, and (u) being the Brightness of his Glory, and the express Image of his Person, was (x) in the Fulness of Time appointed by the Father, sent into this World, and (y) took the human Nature upon him, being born of a pure Virgin, and (z) dwelt among us, being (a) in all Things made like unto us, Sin only excepted.

(r) *John* 1. 17, 18. (s) *Heb.* 1. 2. (t) *John* 1. 18. *John* 17. 5. (u) *Heb.* 1. 3. (x) *Gal.* 4. 4, 5. (y) *Matt.* 1. 22, 23. (z) *John* 1. 14. (a) *Heb.* 4. 15.

Q. To what End did GOD send his Son into the World?

A. It was (b) that he might be a Mediator between **GOD** and Man; (c) reveal his Will, (d) be a Propitiation for the Sins of the whole World, and (e) destroy the Works of the Devil.

(b) 1 *Tim.*

(o) *John* 1.

(b) 1 Tim. 2. 5, 6. (c) John 15. 15. Heb. 1. 1, 2. (d) Rom. 3. 25, 26. (e) 1 John 3. 8.

Q. What made such a Mediation and Propitiation necessary?

A. The (f) Disobedience of our first Parents *Adam* and *Eve*, who being seduced by the evil Spirit, (g) disobeyed the positive Command of **G O D**.

(f) Rom. 5. 12, to the End. (g) Gen. 3. 6. and No Gen. 2. 16, 17.

Q. Did this Disobedience affect their Posterity?

A. Yes ; For (b) they incurred by this Disobedience **G O D**'s Wrath, and forfeited their Right to Life and Happiness, which otherwise they should have enjoy'd as the Reward of their Obedience ; and having thus corrupted their Nature by Sinning, they conveyed the like Corruption to their Posterity ; so that by Nature we are (i) all born Children of Wrath, and (k) subject to Death temporal and eternal.

(b) Rom. 5. 12, to the End. Eph. 2. 3. (i) Gen. 3. 17, 18, 19. (k) 1 Cor. 15. 22. Rom. 6. 23.

Q. Was

Q. Was it only to remove this original Sin of our first Parents that CHRIST came into the World?

A. No; For (l) the original Depravity of our Nature is in every one of us followed with actual Transgressions of our own; so that every Man being also an actual Sinner stands thereby more in need of being reconciled to GOD.

(l) Rom. 3. 19 to 27.

Q. By what Means did CHRIST effect this Reconciliation between GOD and Man?

A. By (m) taking the human Nature upon him, and (n) therein paying a compleat Obedience to the whole Law of GOD, and (o) offering himself an expiatory Sacrifice on the Cross for the Sins of the whole World, he thereby, as (p) Mediator between GOD and Man, became (q) the Author of eternal Salvation to all that believe in and obey him.

(m) Heb. 2. 14, 15, 16, 17. (n) John 4. 34. and also John 17. 4. Luke 23. 41. Rom. 8. 1, 2, 3, 4.
(o) Heb. 10. 14, 15, 16, 17, 18. (p) 1 Tim. 2. 2, 5.
Acts 16. 30, 31. Heb. 5. 9.

B

Q. How

Q. How did JESUS CHRIST prove his Mission to be from GOD?

A. Various ways.

First, By (r) an exact fulfilling the many ancient Prophecies concerning the MESSIAH which are contained in the Old Testament.

(r) John 5. 45, 46, 47. Luke 24. 25, 26, 27, 44, 45, 46, 47.

2dly, By (s) the many Miracles wrought by him for the Confirmation of his Doctrine's coming from GOD, and which were of that Kind, that they plainly surpass'd all the Power of human Nature; for by (t) his Word only, the Blind received their Sight, the Lame walked, the Lepers were cleansed, the Deaf heard, and the Dead were raised up; all which were wrought before many Witnesses of undoubted Credit.

(s) John 10. 25, 37, 38. John 14. 11. (t) Matt. 11. 2, 3, 4, 5. Luke 7. 19, 20, 21, 22.

3dly, By (u) the Holiness of the Doctrine it self preached by him, being such as deserv'd the (x) Approbation that was given to it by GOD, it being wholly cal-

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calculated to advance his own Honour and the Happiness of Mankind, by (y) banishing Idolatry, Superstition and Vice out of the World, and planting, instead of them, the Knowledge and Worship of the one true GOD and his Laws, and the Practice of all Manner of Virtues.

(u) John 7. 16, 17, 18. (x) Matt. 17. 5.
(y) John 17. 16, 17, 18. John 10. 10. John 3. 17 to 22. Mark 12. 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34.

4thly, By (z) GOD's raising JESUS from the Dead, and taking him up in a visible Manner into Heaven, and thereby declaring to all the World his Approbation both of him and his Doctrine: Now that he did raise him from the Dead, and take him into Heaven, is a Truth than which nothing can be ever better attested; for (a) he shew'd himself alive, after he had been put to Death, to his Disciples, and convinced them by many infallible Proofs of his Resurrection, such as conversing with them forty Days, eating and drinking with them. He was seen by (b) above five hundred Persons at once, and afterwards ascended into Heaven in publick View; the Truth of both which many of the Eye-Witnesses sealed with their own Blood, induced to it by no worldly Advantages: For it pleased GOD, upon the first planting of Christianity the Pro-
B 2 fessors

fellows of it did, (c) according to the Forewarning of their Master, expect and meet with Persecutions and Discouragements of all Sorts; that it might more manifestly appear, that what supported them was the Truth of their Cause, and the Rewards which GOD promised in a future Life to their Suffering for his Sake here.

(2.) *Acts* 17. 30, 31. *Rom.* 1. 4. *John* 2. 18, 19, 20, 21, 22. *Matt.* 12. 39, 40. *Matt.* 16. 21. *Matt.* 17. 22, 23. *Matt.* 20. 18, 19. (a) *Acts* 1. 3. (b) *1 Cor.* 15. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. (c) *Matt.* 10. 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 24, 25, 34, 35, 36. *John* 16. 33.

5thly, and Lastly, By the fulfilling of such Prophecies, as he himself had deliver'd while he was upon Earth: Some (d) relating to his own Death and rising again, of which (e) his Disciples were living Witnesses.

(d) *John* 2. 18, 19, 20, 21. *1 Cor.* 15. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. *Matt.* 12. 39, 40. *Matt.* 16. 21. *Matt.* 17. 22, 23. *Matt.* 20. 18, 19. (e) *Luke* 24. 46, 48.

Some to the Punishment to be inflicted on the Jews for their Rejecting and Putting him to Death, which drew upon them the most fearful Destruction of their City, Temple and Common-Wealth, by the Ro-

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mans, which (f) was particularly describ'd by CHRIST forty Years before it besel them; upon which they were disperfed into all Nations, and (g) remain fo unto this Day, without a King, without a Priest, without a Temple, and without Sacrifices, as living Monuments and Witnesses to the Truth of these Prophecies.

(f) *Luke 21. 20, 21, 22, 23, 24.* (g) *Hosea 3. 4.*

Others (h) to the Mission of the Holy Ghost, whereby (i) the Apostles were enabled to preach the Gospel unto all Nations in their own Languages, and (k) to work Miracles in his Name for their further Confirmation; which Power continued in the Church for almost three hundred Years.

(h) *Luke 24. 49.* (i) *Acts 2. 1 to 13.* (k) *Mark 16. 17, 18.*

Lastly, By (l) the Spreading of the Gospel into all Countries, notwithstanding the fierce Opposition of Men and Devils against it.

(l) *Matt. 24. 14. Matt. 28. 19.*

Q. What

Q. What are the Benefits procured by CHRIST'S Obedience and Sufferings for all Mankind?

A. (m) Reconciliation with G O D, (n) Remission of Sins, (o) the Grace of his Holy Spirit, in this Life, and (p) eternal Salvation in the World to come.

(m) Rom. 3. 20 to 27. Rom. 5. 1. (n) Acts 13. 38, 39. (o) Acts 2. 38, 39. (p) Heb. 5. 9.

Q. What is the Happiness, which Christians expect in the World to come?

A. The Happiness which Christians expect is, that (q) we shall be happy for ever in (r) the more immediate Presence and spiritual Enjoyment of G O D, in (s) the Company of his holy Angels, and of the Spirits of just Men made perfect, which (t) Happiness will compleatly satisfy the Soul of Man, and (u) far exceed all the corporeal Pleasures of this Life, being (v) such as Eye hath not seen, nor Ear heard, neither hath entered into the Heart of Man to conceive.

(q) Psal. 16. 11. (r) 1 John 3. 2. 1 Cor. 13. 12. 1 Thess. 4. 17, 18. (s) Heb. 12. 22, 23, 24. (t) Psal.

(v) *Psal.* 17. 15. *Isaiah* 64. 4. *Psal.* 4. 6, 8.
Lam. 3. 24. (u) *Philip.* 1. 23. (x) *1 Cor.* 2. 9.

Q. When will this Happiness begin?

A. It (y) will begin immediately after Death, but will be more perfect, and completed after the general Resurrection from the Dead.

(y) *Luke* 23. 43. *2 Cor.* 5. 1, 6, 8. *Philip.* 1. 23.

Q. What do you believe concerning the Resurrection from the Dead?

A. That (z) at the End of the World all Men shall be raised, and the Bodies they had here, being united to their Souls, shall so remain alive for ever.

(z) *John* 5. 28, 29.

Q. What shall follow this Resurrection?

A. The (a) general Judgment which shall pass upon (b) all Men that have ever lived upon Earth.

(a) *John* 5. 28, 29. (b) *Rom.* 14. 10. *2 Cor.* 5. 10.

Q. For

Q. For what Things shall we be judged?

A. For (c) all our Thoughts, Words and Actions; for every thing done in this Body, according to what we have done, whether it be good or bad.

(c) 2 Cor. 5. 10. Rom. 2. 16. and also Rom. 14. 10. Eccles. 12. 14.

Q. In what Manner shall we be judged?

A. By (d) our LORD JESUS CHRIST, to whom GOD the Father hath committed all Judgment, who will judge the Quick and Dead at his Appearing. For (e) at the End of the World he shall descend from Heaven in the Glory of his Father, and all the holy Angels with him; then shall he sit upon the Throne of his Glory, and (f) before him shall be gathered all Nations, and he shall separate them one from another: setting all good Men on his right Hand and the wicked on his Left, and then publicly acquit the former, and condemn the latter: After which Sentence being pronounced, the Wicked shall depart from him into everlasting Punishment, but the Righteous shall go with him into Life eternal.

(d) John

(d) *John* 5. 21, 22, 23. *Acts* 17. 31. (e) *1 Thess.*
 4. 14; 15, 16, 17. *1 Cor.* 15. 52, 53, 54. *Matt.*
 13. 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 47, 48, 49. (f) *Matt.*
 25. 31, to the End of the Chapter.

Q. What are we to do on our Part to entitle our selves to the Promises of eternal Life?

A. We must (g) by a lively Faith in CHRIST embrace the Promises of eternal Life, (h) repent us of our Sins, and use our best Endeavours to pay a (i) constant, unfeigned, and (k) universal (l) Obedience to all the Commands of GOD our Heavenly Father.

(g) *Acts* 16. 31. (h) *Acts* 3. 19. (i) *1 Tim.* 1. 5. (k) *James* 2. 10, 11. (l) *James* 2. 14, to the End of the Chapter.

Q. How may we come to a sufficient Knowledge of GOD's Will and Commands?

A. It (m) was at first attainable by the Dictates of Natural Reason and Conscience, which being deprav'd, GOD (n) was pleased to reveal his Will concerning a Mediator, and his Commands to Mankind, at sundry Times and in diverse Manners. First, By the Patriarchs; then (o) by Moses and the Prophets; and, lastly, by his Son JESUS CHRIST;

CHRIST; so that (p) the whole Will of GOD concerning us is contained in the Writings of the *Old and New Testament*.

(m) *Rom.* 1. 18, 19, 22. (n) *Heb.* 1. 1, 2.
o) *Luke* 10. 25, 26, 27. (p) *Rev.* 22. 14.

Q. Is there any further Revelation of GOD's Will to be expected, than what is contained in the *Holy Scriptures*?

A. No; For CHRIST (q) having declared to his Apostles before his Departure, that he had yet many things to say unto them, which they could not then bear, but that he would send the *Holy Spirit*, or *Paraclete*, which should guide them into all Truth: This (r) Promise was fulfill'd in the Sending of the *Holy Ghost*, who descended at first on the Apostles in a visible Manner, on the Day of *Pentecost*, and by whose Assistance they were fully enabled to declare the Will of GOD to Mankind, and so commit to writing whatever was necessary for the Salvation of the Faithful; all which is contained in the Canonical Books of the *New Testament*, wherein (s) *St. Paul* has declared, *That if they, or an angel from heaven, should preach any other gospel, than that which they had preached, let him be accursed.*

(q) *John*

(q) *John* 16. 12, 13.(r) *Acts* 2. 1, 2, 3, 14.(s) *Gal.* 1. 8.

Q. But are we able to believe in CHRIST, and to obey GOD's Commands of our selves, and by our own Strength?

A. No; (t) Our Strength cometh from GOD alone, who has promised to give his Holy Spirit to them that ask him; and (u) by his Grace to sanctify, (x) assist, and (y) comfort us, and (z) enable us to do whatsoever he requires of us.

(t) 2 *Cor.* 3. 5. (u) *Luke* 11. 5 to 14. *John* 14. 16, 17. (x) *Rom.* 8. 2. (y) *Rom.* 8. 26. (z) *John* 14. 16. *Luke* 11 13. *Rom.* 12. 12. *Luke* 18. 13. 14. *Phil.* 4. 13.

Q. How are Men admitted into the Christian Church, so as to become Members or Disciples of CHRIST, and entitled to the Benefits he has procur'd for them?

A. By being (a) baptized with Water in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

(a) *Matt.* 28. 19. *Acts* 10. 47, 48. *Acts* 2. 38, 39, 40. *Acts* 22. 16. *Rom.* 4. 11.

Q. Is this the only Sacrament pertaining to Christianity?

A. No; For (b) CHRIST has instituted for the Confirming of our Faith, and our Furtherance in Christian Piety, another Sacrament, commonly called the LORD'S-Supper, in which by blessing and eating of Bread, and drinking of Wine, according to his Command and Institution, we are (c) made Partakers of his Body and Blood, and of all the Benefits of his Death and Passion, the Memory whereof we thereby solemnly set forth and keep up in his Church, 'till the Time of his coming again.

And for the Administration of these Sacraments, and the Preaching of the Gospel, CHRIST (d) has appointed, that there should be a particular Order of Men set apart in every Age; and to them and to his whole Church, he has left this as his last Injunction :

Go ye and teach all Nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and, lo, I am with you

you
Am

(b)
26.

*you always, even unto the end of the world.
Amen.*

(b) *Matt. 26. 26, 27, 28.*

1 Cor. 11. 23, 24, 25,

26. (c) *1 Cor. 10. 16, 17.*

(d) *Matt. 28. 19, 20.*

F I N I S.



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you always, even unto the end of the world.
Amen.

(b) Mar. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30.
(c) 1 Cor. 10. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20.

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